

DECK MOP WITH SCRUBBER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Swab or deck mops have been used as popular cleaning tools for many years. Such mops routinely consist of a handle secured to a mop head, from which cloth, cotton, sponge or other absorbent material cleaning strand elements extend. The cleaning strand elements absorb liquid and are also used to apply floor cleaning substances like water, soap, polish, or other fluid for the cleaning, restoration, and preservation of floor surfaces. Despite the relative success of these type mops, they are generally ineffective in removing ingrained soiled areas. For cleaning ingrained dirt and stains, an abrasive surface is required. Such may be accomplished by the use of a separate abrasive component.

Abrasive scrubber components have been used on a variety of different types of mops. As early as the late nineteenth century, brush surfaces were added to mops, as seen in the pivoted press plate sponge shown in U.S. Pat. No. 603,000. Other examples of abrasive brush surfaces on mops of varied configurations include U.S. Pat. No. 2,472,781, showing a brush mounted on a one piece sponge mop; U.S. Pat. No. 4,491,998, disclosing an abrasive scrubber mounted on a roller type sponge mop; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,488,750, which employs a unique abrasive scrubber unit employed on a butterfly sponge mop. There have also been deck mops which have attempted to incorporate an abrasive element. For instance, U.S. Pat. No. 5,875,509 discloses a swab mop with an abrasive element attached to the ends of the mop's cleaning strands. This arrangement suggests several problems in practical use. The cleaning strands obviously get in the way of the abrasive component during the cleaning operation. More fundamentally, it is difficult to effectively clean soil ingrained areas with this mop, as the user would be compelled to apply pressure to the abrasive element while literally holding the mop perpendicular to the cleaning surface, making use of the abrasive feature difficult and impractical. And, while U.S.

Pat. No. 6,085,378 shows an effectively placed scrubber element on a swab mop, the element is located on a roller sleeve, and thus can not be used unless employed with the system disclosed in that patent.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is thus the object of the present invention to overcome the limitations and disadvantages of prior swab or deck mops.

It is the object of the present invention to increase the versatility of deck mops.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a deck mop which has an abrasive scrubber feature which is easy and simply to use.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a deck mop which has an abrasive scrubber feature which can be used to effectively and efficiently clean ingrained soil areas.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a deck mop which employs and locates an abrasive scrubber on its mop head to allow ready positioning of the mop to clean ingrained soil areas in an unencumbered manner.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a deck mop which allows for increased life of the abrasive scrubber, by employing replaceable abrasive surfaces.

These and other objects are accomplished by the present invention which comprises a deck mop with an elongated handle and absorbent cleaning strands extending from an integrally formed mop body. The mop body has parallelly aligned front and rear walls and a top wall extending between the front and rear walls. An abrasive scrubber element with a downwardly extending abrasive surface extends from one of the side walls. The abrasive surface can easily and effectively be used to clean ingrained soiled areas.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic of the invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The invention itself, both as to its design, construction, and

use, together with additional features and advantages thereof, are best understood upon review of the following detailed description with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the deck mop body with scrubber member attached.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the deck mop body separated from the scrubber member.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the deck mop of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a front view of the deck mop of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a rear view of the deck mop of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Mop **1** of the present invention is shown in the drawings in the form of a swab or deck mop with handle **2** secured by threaded connection **4**, or similar commonly known means, to mop body **6**. Mop body **6** has parallelly aligned front wall **8** and rear wall **10** and, located between and connected to these walls, intervening top wall **12**. Top wall **12** supports threaded connection **4**. Absorbent material cleaning strand elements **14**, made of cloth, cotton, sponge or other absorbent material, extend from mop body **6** and are attached to the mop body by means of attachment component **16**, well-known in the art.

Abrasive scrubber element **20** extends from front wall **10**. Scrubber element **20** comprises support ribs **22**, **24**, and **26** which extend between front wall **8** and scrubber body **28**. Scrubber body **28** of cleaning element **20** comprises outer surface **32** for attachment to abrasive scrubber member **34**. Scrubber member **34** can be an abrasive pad or similar coarse surface which can be permanently attached to outer surface **32** or attached by means of Velcro® or similar means. When secured by Velcro® or similar removable attachments, scrubber member **34** can be replaced when it becomes worn. Scrubber element **20** can also comprise brush-like scrubbing surfaces in scrub brush-like configuration. It is emphasized that the invention is not

limited in scope to the type of abrasive scrubber elements which are disclosed herein, nor by the manner of attachment of scrubber member **34** to scrubber body **28**. For instance, any adaptable abrasive scrubber element, like a brush or other type of scrubbing pad, can be used.

Mop body **6**, with scrubber element **20**, can be formed as an integral, unitary element. It is contemplated that it can be made of molded plastic. Mop body **6** and scrubber element **20** can also be made as separate components and secured together. The invention is not to be considered limited in scope to the means of construction and materials used.

Deck mop **1** of the present invention can thus easily and effectively be used to clean ingrained soiled surfaces by simply angling the mop so that scrubber member **34** of scrubber element **20** contacts the surface. Appropriate back and forth pressure can readily be applied via handle **2** to clean the soiled area, without encumbrance or hindrance from strand elements **14**.

Certain novel features and components of this invention are disclosed in detail in order to make the invention clear in at least one form thereof. However, it is to be clearly understood that the invention as disclosed is not necessarily limited to the exact form and details as disclosed, since it is apparent that various modifications and changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.